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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/713,163	11/14/2000	Allen D. Polowinczak	1247 P 179	3393

7590

11/27/2002

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EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/713,163

Applicant(s)

POLOWINCZAK ET AL.

Examiner

John B. Walsh

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22-32, 39-46, 48 and 50-58 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 13, 15-19, 21, 33, 34, 38, 47, 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-12, 14, 20 and 35-37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 13, 17-19 21, 33, 34, 47 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,400,026 to Brown, Jr.

Brown, Jr. '026 discloses a housing (26) having an outward end opening (figure 4; opening at 56) and a cover (80); a latch bolt (34) disposed within the housing and having a nose adapted for engaging a respective one of the guide rails (figure 1); an actuator (28,78) connected to the latch bolt and sized to be positioned over the entire cover (figure 2; the actuator is positioned over the entire cover).

As concerns claim 2, means for biasing the latch (30).

As concerns claims 3 and 34, the cover has opposed longitudinal peripheral edges (vertical peripheral edges of 80) and the actuator has opposed depending longitudinal flanges (9), the flanges being positioned over the peripheral edges.

As concerns claim 13 and 47, the actuator has a control button (78).

As concerns claim 17, the housing and latch are made from plastic (column 1, line 25).

As concerns claim 18, the biasing means comprises a spring (30).

Art Unit: 3676

As concerns claim 19, the top rail has opposed header slots and the housing includes means for supporting the housing in the header slots (84).

As concerns claim 21, a depending tab (82) engaging one of the stiles.

As concerns claim 33, discloses a housing (26) adapted to be supported by the top rail, said housing having an outward end opening (figure 4; opening at 56) and a cover (80); a latch bolt (34) disposed within the housing and having a nose adapted for engaging a respective one of the guide rails (figure 1); an elongated body (28) connected to the latch bolt and sized to be positioned over the entire cover (figure 2; the elongated body is positioned over the entire cover).

As concerns claim 49, discloses a housing (26) adapted to be supported by the top rail, said housing having an outward end opening (figure 4; opening at 56), a cover (80) and a depending tab (82) adapted for engaging one of the stiles; a latch bolt (34) disposed within the housing and having a nose adapted for engaging a respective one of the guide rails (figure 1); an elongated body (28) connected to the latch bolt and sized to be positioned over the entire cover (figure 2; the elongated body is positioned over the entire cover).

3. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,669,639 to Lawrence.

Lawrence '639 discloses a tilt latch comprising a housing (31) having an outward end opening (figure 7; left side of 31) <sup>and a cover (80) within 31</sup>; a latch bolt (20) having a nose (figure 7; left end of 20); an elongated body (30) connected to the latch bolt (figure 3).

As concerns claim 34, the cover has opposed longitudinal peripheral edges (32a) and the actuator has opposed depending longitudinal flanges (figure 14), the flanges being positioned over the peripheral edges (figure 14).

Art Unit: 3676

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 15, 16 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,400,026 to Brown, Jr. as applied to claims 1 and 33 above, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,669,639 to Lawrence.

Brown, Jr. '026 does not explicitly teach the actuator/elongated body made of zinc.

Lawrence '639 teaches that the latches (16 and 17) may be made from both metal and plastic components (column 4, lines 35-39). Furthermore, Lawrence '639 indicates that the latch mechanism may be made from zinc. Lawrence '639 teaches that both plastic and zinc are equivalently capable materials for use in latch mechanisms.

The teaching by Lawrence '639 to use metal zinc in the latch mechanism renders it obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use zinc, as a preferred material for an elongated body/actuator of the latch mechanism of Brown, Jr. '026.

6. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,669,639 to Lawrence.

Lawrence '639 does not explicitly disclose the elongated body made of zinc.

Lawrence '639 teaches that the latches (16 and 17) may be made from both metal and plastic components (column 4, lines 35-39). Furthermore, Lawrence '639 indicates that the latch

Art Unit: 3676

mechanism (17) may be made from zinc. The teaching by Lawrence '639 to use metal zinc in the latch mechanism (17) renders it obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use zinc for the elongated body of the latch mechanism (16).

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-58 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. The indicated allowability of claims 13 and 21 are withdrawn in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,400,026 to Brown, Jr. A rejection based on the reference is found above.

9. Claims 22-32, 39, 40-46, 48 and 50-58 are allowed.

10. Claims 4-12, 14, 20 and 35-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 703-305-0444. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30-6:00.

Art Unit: 3676

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-872-9325.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Knight', is positioned above the printed name.

**Anthony Knight**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 3670**

JW  
November 24, 2002